

February 28, 1948.

Mr. Carl A. Beam,
Osborn Botanical Lab.,
Yale University,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Carl,

Well, we've been able to confirm each other's results, even if they are negative. I certainly agree with you that the only thing to do next is to secure a C2-R which can be transformed, and try simply to repeat Boivin's observations directly. Like yourself, I tried to isolate the magic strain, found several roughs last summer, and could transform none of them. No answer from Boivin to my letters. Another strange thing is that question of sucrase. In his symposium paper, he says that C1 and C2 may be sucrose-variable. I tried very hard to select out sucrose- mutants from these, and got nothing. As to polyglycuronide tests, I got very nice distinctions using the Tollens reagent (Naphthoresorcinol) (look up the crude method in the Merck index) on cells harvested from about 50 cc. broth culture.

I am going to continue trying to isolate C-2R*, and hope you do the same.

Have you decided whether you're going to Stanford? If you do, drop in on your way across. In fact, here's an open invitation to the whole gang to do the same. We can put you up— but only one at a time. Accommodations are easily found in town, too.

Are you through with Proteus?

Best regards,

Joshua Lederberg